# COLORADO

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## Technology Infrastructure

Colorado began work with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the late 1970s. The largest GIS is currently in the Department of Local Affairs (DLA) which has had ARC/INFO software since 1984. DLA is currently operating ARC/INFO software on the department's main computer, a Prime 9750 computer. The system's main function is to support redistricting, and it is now also used to maintain local government and special district boundaries; to support property tax mill levy assessments; and to allocate Conservation Trust Fund monies received from the state lottery by local governments.

## Coordination Activities

Colorado has a long history of coordination activities regarding GIS. The state previously had a cartographer who accomplished significant data development activities, but the position was abolished in the mid 1980s. The director of the Department of Highways (DOH) established a full time Geographic Information Coordinator position for statewide coordination activities but without official statewide direction, authority or resources. The Geographic Information Coordinator position included staffing for a "Governor's Forum on Geographic Information" Conference held in October 1987, but the effort slowed down later that year with the departure of both the DOH director and the Coordinator. During this time, however, an informal group of persons from state agencies interested in and working with GIS began meeting, and a Geographic Names Board was also organized.

Since then, this group of state agency representatives drafted and presented the Governor's office with an Executive Order to improve the support and direction of the group. An Executive Order was signed in October 1989 establishing the Colorado Geographic Information Coordinating Committee. The Committee is lead by the Department of Local Affairs and has various state agencies as voting members. The Committee does not have any real authority, but it is a forum for exchange of information. The Order states that the responsibilities of the Committee are to:

- promote a spirit of cooperation among all sectors;
- develop recommendations to state and federal agencies;
- establish or recommend guidelines for interchange of data among state agencies;
- advise the U.S. Geological Survey;
- promote coordination and minimize duplication;
- provide a contact point and rudimentary clearinghouse for local governments and private entities with GIS concerns;
- provide recommendations to the Governor on issues related to geographic information;
- report to the governor once a year.

## Coordination Activities

Coordination activities in Arkansas have just begun from the standpoint of state government. The Arkansas chapter of URISA is an informal group that meets regularly to serve in a coordination role. Various federal agencies in the area also work together informally. There are no immediate plans to have an official coordinating group or effort. However, the Governor's office sponsored a meeting in July 1989 to provide an opportunity for state and federal agencies, local governments and universities to meet and discuss activities.

# CALIFORNIA

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## Technology Infrastructure

The Teale Data Center is the largest multipurpose data center in the state. In 1988 the director decided to develop a GIS unit due to the growing amount of GIS activity in state agencies. Teale had ARC/INFO software installed on a Prime computer, but they wanted to be on UNIX-based machines to increase connectivity. Now that some demo equipment has been installed, they are procuring for workstations. There are some plans to develop a statewide Ethernet LAN network to link agencies with each other and Teale. Many agencies work with Teale including those who do or do not have GIS installations of their own.

## Coordination Activities

The Teale Data Center provides many services on a cost recovery basis, but it essentially aims to serve in a strong coordination role. Services at Teale include consulting services, database development, education (classes in ARC/INFO), lease purchase, address matching, and data maintenance. One of the main goals at Teale is to develop a data library.

California does not have any official groups dedicated to GIS. An informal Computer Mapping Coordinating Committee began in 1987 which meets on a monthly basis. The Committee now includes federal, state and local agencies, and academic members. It is essentially a users group and exists for information exchange. Members provide some guidance and assistance for each other. Nancy Tosta is the chair.

The California GIS Coordinating Committee is a small task force organized for the sole purpose of inventorying all GIS activities in the state and developing some type of plan. It is also very informal with only volunteer efforts. The Committee hopes to prepare a report of state, federal and local GIS activities by April 1990. Nancy Tosta is the chair of the Committee.

A State Mapping Advisory Committee exists according to the U.S. Geological Survey, but it hasn't been active in GIS or in general.